

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (cancelled)

Claim 2 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 1 ~~+~~ 21, wherein each spring of said first plurality of springs ~~being~~ is disposed in a first orientation and each spring of said second plurality of springs ~~being~~ is disposed in a second orientation substantially orthogonal to the first orientation.

Claim 3 (original): The apparatus of claim 2, wherein each spring of said first and second pluralities of the springs is a bar.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 1 ~~+~~ 21, wherein ~~said each comb pair of the first and second set of comb pairs comprising~~ comprise:

a ~~first~~ fixed comb; and

a ~~first~~ movable comb being disposed spatially opposite to the ~~first~~ fixed comb.

Claim 5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 1 ~~21~~, wherein a first actuation force to ~~said~~ the first set of comb pairs pair providing provides a first displacement to the stage in a first direction, and a second actuation force to ~~said~~ the second set of comb pairs pair providing provides a second displacement to the stage in a second direction.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 6, wherein ~~said~~ the first actuation force causes a bending of the first plurality of springs while the second plurality of springs ~~being~~ are maintained substantially straight to provide ~~said~~ the first displacement.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 6, wherein ~~said~~ the second actuation force causes a bending of the second plurality of springs while the first plurality of springs ~~being~~ are maintained substantially straight to provide ~~said~~ the second displacement.

Claims 9-17 (cancelled)

Claims 18-19 (withdrawn)

Claim 20 (cancelled)

Claim 21 (new): A comb drive apparatus comprising:

- (a) a stage having edges and sides;
- (b) a first comb pair;
- (c) a second comb pair coupled to the first comb pair;

- (d) a first plurality of springs movably coupling the first comb pair and the stage, the first plurality of springs being spaced along a first side of the stage between edges of the stage; and
- (e) a second plurality of springs movably coupling the second comb pair and the stage, the second plurality of springs being spaced along a second side of the stage between edges of the stage.

Claim 22 (new): A comb drive apparatus comprising:

- (a) a pair of opposite exterior combs; and
- (b) a corresponding pair of opposite interior combs;
- (c) wherein the opposite interior combs are coupled together with an inter-link.

Claim 23 (new): A comb drive apparatus comprising:

- (a) external comb pairs having a frame; and
- (b) internal nested comb pairs that are rigidly nested within the frame.

Claim 24 (new): A comb drive apparatus comprising:

- (a) a micro-frame configured to receive a micro-optical element;
- (b) fixed combs;
- (c) movable combs in opposing relation with the fixed combs; and
- (d) springs coupled:
 - (i) to movable combs coupled between ends of the movable combs, and
 - (ii) to the micro-frame.

Claim 25 (new): The comb drive apparatus of claim 24, further comprising an array of micro-frames.

Claim 26 (new): A comb drive apparatus comprising:

- (a) a stage;
- (b) a first movable comb having two ends;
- (c) a second movable comb having two ends;
- (d) a first spring coupled:
 - (i) to the first movable comb between ends of the first movable comb, and
 - (ii) to the stage;
- (e) a second spring coupled:
 - (i) to the second movable comb between ends of the second movable comb, and
 - (ii) to the stage; and
- (f) a third spring coupling an end of the first movable comb to an end of the second movable comb.